## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

    1.    A method of processing financial
instrument data to identify stock option spreads, in a
5    computer system, comprising:

    receiving financial data from at least one data
source;

    processing the financial data to derive values
for a set of searchable parameters corresponding to stock
10    option spreads;

    receiving user defined search criteria for
searching the searchable parameters corresponding to the
stock option spreads;

    searching the values derived for the set of
15    searchable parameters for values having the user defined
search criteria; and

    identifying a set of option spreads
corresponding to values for the set of searchable
parameters matching the user defined search criteria.

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    2.    The method of claim 1, wherein said step
of processing the financial data to derive values for a
set of searchable parameters corresponding to stock

option spreads comprises processing the financial data to

derive values for at least one of the following: bull-put

spreads; bear call spreads; collar spreads; strangle

spreads; butterfly spreads; straddle spreads; and

5       calendar spreads.

3.     The method of claim 1, wherein said step

of set of processing the financial data to derive values

for a set of searchable parameters corresponding to stock

10      option spreads comprises processing the financial data to

derive values for at least one of the following

searchable parameters: Black-Scholes ratio; option volume

percentage; implied volatility; percentage to double;

industry groupings; recommended listings; and percentage

15      return on an option spread.

4.     The method of claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting to a user a series of questions

regarding investment preferences;

20          receiving responses to said series of

questions; and

formulating from said responses, search

criteria for searching the searchable parameters.

5.    The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a request to execute a particular

option strategy; and

5          forwarding said request to execute a particular

option strategy to a brokerage computer system operable

to execute trades on stocks and stock options, wherein

said request to execute a particular option strategy

10    entails executing trades on a plurality of stock options.

6.    The method of claim 1, wherein said step

of identifying a set of option spreads comprises

formatting a listing of option strategies corresponding

to values derived for said set of searchable parameters

15    matching the user defined search criteria.

7.    The method of claim 1, wherein said step

of formatting a listing of option spreads comprises

formatting a chain of option strategies, said chain of

20    option spreads including a list of option spreads having

options expiring in the same month.

8.    A method for formulating searches of

financial instruments in a computer system, comprising:

transmitting to a user a series of questions regarding investment preferences;

receiving responses to said series of

5       questions;

formulating from said responses, search criteria; and

executing a search of a searchable database of financial instruments using said search criteria.

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9.    A method for processing trades in a computer system of financial instrument strategies including multiple financial instruments, comprising:

receiving a request to execute a trade of a

15      financial instrument strategy;

formulating a trade request defining trades to be executed on a plurality of financial instruments included in the financial instrument strategy; and

routing the trade request to a brokerage.

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10.   A system for processing financial instrument data to identify stock option spreads, comprising:

a communication device for receiving data from external systems;

a processing device in communication with said communication device, wherein said processing device is

5     programmed to perform the following:

receive financial data via said communication device from at least one data source;

process the financial data to derive values for a set of searchable parameters corresponding to stock

10    option spreads;

receive user defined search criteria for searching the searchable parameters corresponding to the stock option spreads;

search the values derived for the set of

15    searchable parameters for values having the user defined search criteria; and

identify a set of option spreads corresponding to values for the set of searchable parameters matching the user defined search criteria.

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